

# County Line

News from the Government Offices of Lumpkin County, Georgia

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## Peak Performance Flagged

A handful of Lumpkin County employees were honored in May for outstanding 2006 performance. The Board of Commissioners and county manager Stan Kelley awarded certificates of appreciation and special county coins to these top employees:



**Kim Pruitt, Board of Elections**  
Lumpkin County Employee of the Year

**Scott Lashley, EMS**  
EMT of the Year

**Mathew Cook**  
Firefighter of the Year

**Brenda White**  
911 Employee of the Year

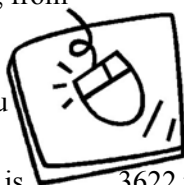
**Mitch Salain**  
Sheriff's Office Employee of the Year

The peak performers also were honored at the Rotary Club of Dahlonega's Vocational Service Award Ceremony, where each received a certificate and \$100.

Other staff members nominated for the title of Lumpkin County Employee of the Year—Cindy Foley, board of elections; Pam Stewart, human resources; and Mike Davis, roads department—received certificates of appreciation from the board of commissioners, as well.

## Get Online, Not In Line

The Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation Department is blazing the trail for Northeast Georgia Counties our size by being among the first to offer online registration for park and rec programs. Online registrations are being taken now for programs ranging from aerobics and Tae Kwon Do to swimming lessons and summer day camp. Preparations to add Fall programs to the online menu were in progress at press time, so they should be up soon if they're not already. The system is easy to use. Simply log on to <http://activenet5.active.com/lumpkinrec>, and read the directions. Establish your account and register away, using your



debit or approved credit card (please note the small convenience fee). If you don't see the program you're interested in call 706-864-

3622 for information. Not only is the online option good for customers, it helps the Parks and Rec Department by filing and storing program information in electronic form, rather

## Happy Anniversary: It's Bin Great!

It's been just over a year since Lumpkin County opened the new Recycling Center on Red Oak Flats Road and placed bright blue drop-off bins in strategic locations near GA 400 and Highway 60 and by Lumpkin County High School. Leslie George, executive director of North Georgia Resource Management Authority, which pools recyclables from Lumpkin, Union, Towns and Banks Counties, says Lumpkin County's participation in the cooperative program has been amazing. Collections more than quadrupled last year compared to the year before, when the county transfer station was the only drop off point. But the success has created challenges. The increased volume means issues that were minor at first have gotten more than four times bigger, too. Recyclers are reminded of these five important recycling points:

1. Plastics: Remove and throw away the lids from No. 1 and 2 plastics. People are having to work full days at a time at the processing center just to remove the thousands of lids from plastic jugs and bottles received each week, which are not usable in our program.

2. Aluminum drink cans: Drop into the bins loose, not bagged. You can dispose of plastic bags in the small receptacles provided for your convenience.

3. Mixed paper and cardboard. Put only true *corrugated* cardboard—the kind with two sheets of cardboard on the outside with a rippled piece sandwiched in between—in the cardboard bin. Paperboard items like cereal boxes and other food containers that you can easily tear go in the mixed paper bin.

4. Rinse out plastic containers and cans. Food and drink residue attracts bees that sting workers and creates smelly, nasty conditions at the drop off bins and the center, designed for processing of clean recyclables. YUCK!

5. NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE or other items may be left at the drop-off bin areas. The county will be enforcing this.

City residents: If you take advantage of the city's free recyclable pick up service, your recyclables are going to the same Lumpkin County Recycling Center. Please help keep the program clean and efficient by rinsing out cans and containers and discarding plastic lids.



## Find Meeting Information Online

Lumpkin County commissioners for some time have wanted to have their board meeting agendas and minutes posted online.

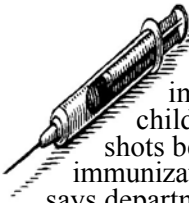
Now it's beginning to happen. Public notices and tentative agendas for public hearings, board work sessions and board meetings are beginning to populate the calendar on the county's website.

Minutes of past work sessions and board meetings will be added soon. Agendas can't be posted too far in advance as they tend toward last-minutes changes. Staff is asking that people requesting to be on meeting agendas make their requests prior to the deadline, which is at least five days before the actual meeting date. (Just stop in the Board of Commissioners office or contact county clerk Ruth Bohac at 706-864-3742 or [ruth.bohac@lumpkincounty.gov](mailto:ruth.bohac@lumpkincounty.gov) to start the process.) There will be some lag time between meetings and the posting of minutes from those meetings since those documents aren't official until approved at the next work session or board meeting. To find this new information, go to [www.lumpkincounty.gov](http://www.lumpkincounty.gov). Scroll across the top of the page and click on *Meetings*. Scroll down the Lumpkin Meetings page until you find the correct month under the General Schedule of Meetings heading.



than in the previous stacks of paper applications. Staff will be able to tell at a glance, for example, how many have registered for 10 and under soccer. Easy access to information like that will help them organize schedules and better manage programs. Rather go in person? No problem. You're welcome to stop in during business hours, as always, and register with cash, check, credit or debit card.

## Lumpkin County . . . continued from reverse side



### Services a Shot in the Arm...Really!

The Lumpkin County Health Department is bracing for a busy month, as new state immunization laws effective July 1 send some children and young adults back to the nurse for more shots before school starts. People should review their immunization needs periodically throughout their lifetimes, says department office manager Linda Truelove, since some vaccinations, like tetanus, require booster shots. But with the new laws, there's a greater urgency for these groups of people, who may need more shots in the next few weeks: those entering day care, Pre-K or kindergarten, those going into 6<sup>th</sup> grade or attending colleges or technical schools and those planning job changes. Some of the vaccinations now required by law have been given for a long time, but are just now being required. Other newer immunizations aren't required but are being recommended for certain groups. To learn what your kids need, first find their records. Start with the healthcare provider who gave the last immunizations. If the records can't be found, the health department can search for them on a state registry. You can get shots at a private doctor's office or at the health department next to Courthouse Hill. Lumpkin County Health Department services are available to all local residents, but are especially appreciated by residents who don't have health insurance. There is a flat fee for vaccinations; the costs of most other services are based on income and family size. For details about Georgia's new immunization laws, or about Lumpkin County Health Department services, call 706-867-2727.

### It's Worth How Much?

If you own property, you know it feels good to have it be worth more today than it was when you bought it. That is, until the tax appraiser notices. And tax appraisers are required by law to "notice" so property values throughout the county are accurate and fair, based on fair market value, when it comes time for the tax commissioner to tax the properties. The Lumpkin County Assessor's Office mailed out 2006 property assessments in June. Most values went up since the last county-wide revaluations five years ago, with owners of rural tracts seeing the biggest jumps. If you think the property value listed on your assessment notice is incorrect, you have the right to appeal to the county board of tax assessors and to make further appeals beyond that if you feel it's necessary. But before you do, chief appraiser Don Head encourages you to look on the Lumpkin County Assessors Office website, at [www.qpublic.net/ga/lumpkin](http://www.qpublic.net/ga/lumpkin), where you'll find details

about the appraisal process and have the ability to look up similar properties to compare values. If you still wish to appeal, you must do so in writing within 45 days of the date of your notice. To learn more, call 706-864-2433. And keep in mind, an increase in property value doesn't necessarily mean there will be an increase in your property tax. The tax you will owe will depend on the county's and school board's budgets and the millage rates they set.

### Daytime Watering Hosed

Lumpkin County—like the rest of Georgia—remains under mandatory Level 2 Drought Response water restrictions this summer. Outdoor watering is permitted from midnight to 10am only, according to the following schedule: odd-numbered addresses on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays and even-numbered addresses on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.



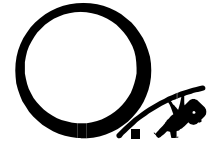
### "Proper" Progress Toward the Goal

Steve Proper came to Lumpkin County in March after a decade as director of Savannah's largest regional recreation center. Now he's director of Lumpkin County's largest parks and recreation center. Granted, it's the county's *only* parks & rec center, but you wouldn't guess it's the only game in town by the way Steve's running the growing operation. Like the competitive players in the Parks and Rec athletic programs, he's committed to being part of a winning team. Steve plans to build public confidence in the department with better staff accountability, increased community input (he's already using some customer surveys) and an open door policy. Changes, big or small, will be made program by program, as he gets a better feel for what's being done, what's working and what isn't. Got some ideas or just want to welcome Steve to town? Visit him at the community center or contact him at 706-864-3622 or [steve.proper@lumpkincounty.gov](mailto:steve.proper@lumpkincounty.gov).



### Pandemic Prep Update

Lumpkin County continues to coordinate efforts to prepare for a potential flu pandemic, that is, a strong strain of flu that can cause widespread illness and many deaths worldwide. Health experts say everyone should be prepared for such an event. After getting input from various sectors of the community, such as county and city management, emergency services, public health, private healthcare, business, media and civic based organizations, the county in the Spring submitted a draft plan, as required, to the Georgia Department of Health and Human Services. The plan outlines how the community would expect to handle the health crisis before, during and after it struck if the



### Working for You!

If you have a problem, question or concern involving your county government, answers and assistance are as close as your phone or computer. For contact information for county departments or commissioners, see Dept. and Contact Info., [www.lumpkincounty.gov](http://www.lumpkincounty.gov) or call (706) 864-3742.

### Board of Commissioners

Steve Gooch, Chairman  
Dr. John Raber, District 1  
Deborah Hutcheson, District 2  
Clarence Stowers, District 3  
Clarence Grindle, District 4

Stan Kelley  
County Manager

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pandemic were to become a reality. With the exception of needing a few more pieces of information, Lumpkin County's plan is ready to be examined for cracks. A \$3,000 grant awarded in June will enable the committee to bring in all those involved and conduct a "tabletop" discussion exercise to identify gaps and shortcomings in the plan so they can be addressed before a crisis strikes. Using the results of the tabletop exercise, the committee then will revise and finalize the plan, eventually distributing it to the appropriate community and emergency leaders. Keep your ears open for an educational campaign expected to start in late summer that will provide valuable information about the possible flu pandemic and what you can do to prepare for it. For details, visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

